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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/520,402	03/08/2000	Mark L Yoseloff	PA0437.ap.US	1303

7590

11/04/2002

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EXAMINER

MENDIRATTA, VISHU K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/520,402

Applicant(s)

YOSELOFF, MARK L

Examiner

Vishu K Mendiratta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1-19, 22-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Ornstein (,885).

Williams teaches a method of playing a wagering game with at least at least two plays (abstract line 1), receiving at least one set of symbols (32,36,40), receiving a second set of symbols (32,36,50), comparing each set to symbols to the payout table (20), determining the ranks of first and second set of symbols whether they exceed a minimum rank ("two pair" in table 20). Resolving the wager with respect to first and second set of symbols (col.7, lines 5-10). Ornstein further teaches dack of playing cards (col.11, lines 21-22), poker ranks (20).

Williams teaches all limitations of these claims except that it does not teach resolving a bet with respect when both first and second set of symbols exceed a minimum rank in the pay table.

Ornstein teaches a method of playing a game where a payoff is made for consecutive winnings (col.2, lines 17-21).

One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have made the game more attractive for players by making an additional payoff for winning two or more plays consecutively. If a player knows that he would make additional money by winning two or more hands consecutively, he would be more interested in playing that game.

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Applicant might argue that hands 40 and 50 are not consecutive hands. Examiner takes the position that while practicing the game on a gaming table the turning of cards 40 and 50 would be consecutive (col.11, lines 1-8).

Examiner views applicant's variations in pay tables, minimum ranks and number of bets required for hands are choices of game houses and would change according to their financial situations. In order to make the game house profitable, it would have been obvious to change such limitations without changing the spirit of the game.

2. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Netley in view of Ornstein.

Netley teaches a method of playing a poker game comprising the steps of wagering for each game (col.3, lines 13-14), playing at least two games (abstract), allowed to play a second game if winning the first game (col.2, lines 65-67), awards for winning both hands (col.3, lines 27-31), and bonus (col.3, lines 39).

Netley teaches all limitations of these claims except that it does not teach resolving a bet with respect when both first and second set of symbols exceed a minimum rank in the pay table.

Ornstein teaches a method of playing a game where a payoff is made for consecutive winnings (col.2, lines 17-21).

One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have made the game more attractive for players by making an additional payoff for winning two or more plays consecutively. If a player knows that he would make additional money by winning two or more hands consecutively, he would be more interested in playing that game.

Double Patenting

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 1, 4, 15, 20, 23 and 31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6179711 in view of Ornstein.

Yoseloff teaches all limitations of these claims except that it does not teach resolving a bet with respect when both first and second set of symbols exceed a minimum rank in the pay table.

Ornstein teaches a method of playing a game where a payoff is made for consecutive winnings (col.2, lines 17-21).

One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have made the game more attractive for players by making an additional payoff for winning two or more plays consecutively. If a player knows that he would make additional money by winning two or more hands consecutively, he would be more interested in playing that game.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishu K Mendiratta whose telephone number is (703) 306-5695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8AM to 5PM.

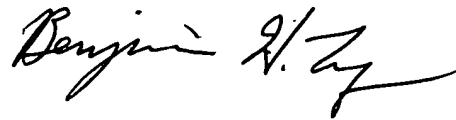
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Sewell can be reached on (703) 308-2126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Vishu K Mendiratta
Examiner
Art Unit 3711

VKM
October 23, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin H. Layno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Benjamin H. Layno
Primary Examiner